

Remarks

Claims 14-27 are pending. Claims 1-13 are canceled and new Claims 14-27 are added in this Response.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under Sections 102 and 103 as being anticipated by or obvious over Wang (6668376) in view of Gunji (2003/0065755) or Chen (2003/0051012). Claims 1-13 have been canceled and the rejections are moot. Nevertheless, Applicants do not concede that Wang anticipates or renders obvious (with Gunji and Chen) all of Claims 1-13. Claims 7 and 12, for example, recite allowable subject matter. It is felt, however, that novel features and other aspects of the invention are more clearly recited and more broadly presented in the new claims added in this Response.

New Claim 14 recites a method for facilitating device driver installation that includes: assigning a discrete identification number to each of a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment; associating information for configuring a driver for each of the devices installed in the customer environment with the identification number for the device; and storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location remote from the customer environment and accessible to the customer environment.

Wang describes automatically downloading and installing a device driver from a designated web site. Wang says nothing about assigning discrete identification numbers that might somehow be used to distinguish each of a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment. To the extent the single device discussed in Wang might somehow be deemed to have been assigned an identification number, there is no suggestion in Wang that any such identification number is or could be used to distinguish the device from other devices installed in the customer environment.

Claim 14 also requires associating driver configuration information for each device with the identification. Hence, serial numbers and other such indicia assigned by a manufacturer before installation do not meet the claim limitations.

Claim 14 also requires storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location that is remote from the customer environment and accessible to the customer environment. So far as Applicants can tell, none of the cited references teach or suggest this limitation.

New Claim 15, which depends from Claim 14, adds the further limitation of associating the identification numbers with the customer. Again, there is nothing in Wang that even remotely resembles the limitation added in Claim 15.

Claims 16-18 and 24-25 recite other features that distinguish the cited references. Claims 19-23 and 26-27 are computer medium counterparts to method claims 14-18 and 24-25, respectively.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding office action.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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